

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /122 W

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R 171430Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1104

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18057

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS UR US

SUBJECT: LOS: SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE U.S. POLICY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBOFF ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION COMMITMENT TO LOS AGREEMENTS ALREADY REACHED AND TO CONTINUING CLOSE BILATERAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR IN FUTURE LOS PROCEEDINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA DEPUTY CHIEF OF TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION, FELIKS N. KOVALEV, DISCUSSED LOS BRIEFLY WITH EMBOFF DURING COURTESY CALL NOVEMBER 15, AND TOOK OCCASION TO CALL ATTENTION OF EMBOFF TO TWO CONCERNS WHICH "THOSE OF US WORKING ON LOS" HAVE ABOUT FUTURE U.S. POLICY IN THIS AREA.

3. FIRST, ON SUBSTANCE OF U.S. POLICY HE WONDERED WHETHER NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD ACCEPT THE SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS THUS FAR REACHED IN LOS AND PROCEED FROM THERE, OR WHETHER "POLICY REVIEW" HE HAD HEARD OF
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WOULD REOPEN SETTLED QUESTIONS AND, POSSIBLY, COMPLICATE REMAINING ISSUES. SPECIFICALLY, HE WONDERED WHETHER

PROPOSALS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER IN LAST SESSION OF LOS WOULD REMAIN VALID BEYOND JANUARY 20, 1977, OR MIGHT NEW ADMINISTRATION DISMISS THEM AS SIMPLY ELECTION CAMPAIGN MANEUVERS. COMMENT: THE TONE AND CONTEXT OF HIS QUESTION BETRAYED SOME CONCERN THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS MIGHT BE DROPPED BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. NEVERTHELESS, WHEN EMBOFF PRESSED HIM HE REFUSED TO MAKE POSITIVE COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS BUT SIMPLY NOTED THAT THEY WERE STILL UNDER STUDY. END COMMENT.

4. KOVALEV'S SECOND CONCERN HAD TO DO WITH THE METHODS USED IN LOS THUS FAR TO RESOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. HE RECALLED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PLEASED AT THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM AND THE U.S. THUS FAR IN THE CONFERENCE AND VALUED IN PARTICULAR THE METHOD BY WHICH THE USSR AND THE U.S. CONSULTED TOGETHER TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT BEFORE GOING TO THE GROUP OF FIVE OR TO THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDERED THIS METHOD PRODUCTIVE AND WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS THEIR STRONG DESIRE TO SEE IT CONTINUED. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF THIS METHOD IN MOVING THE CONFERENCE FORWARD AND WOULD AGREE THAT IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE USED. EMBOFF PROMISED TO CONVEY THESE REMARKS TO WASHINGTON.

5. FINALLY, KOVALEV WONDERED ALOUD IF THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON WOULD NOT NEGATE IN LARGE MEASURE THE VALUE OF THE GROUP OF FIVE MEETINGS IN PARIS IN EARLY DECEMBER AND ASKED IF ANYONE FROM THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE PRESENT ON THE AMERICAN DELEGATION. EMBOFF SAID THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION.

6. COMMENT. THIS IS ANOTHER OF A SERIES OF SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SOVIETS THAT BILATERAL CONTACTS IN MULTI-LATERAL INTERNATIONAL FORA ARE OF PARTICULAR VALUE TO THEM AND THAT THEY MOST CERTAINLY WISH TO SEE THEM CONTINUED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LAW OF THE SEA, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW18057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760429-0833
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761138/aaaabgvv.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE U.S. POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006